

December 20, 1994

Mr. John Wagoner, Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Mail Stop A7-50  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. Wagoner:

The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (Trustees) is concerned about both the current impacts to, and the future effects on, the mature shrub steppe habitat within the Central Plateau (200 Area and vicinity). The Central Plateau contains the largest block of mature shrub steppe remaining on Hanford outside the North Slope.

Since a large part of the Central Plateau has been designated by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) for waste management activities, the unique vegetation present in the Central Plateau warrants a close examination. The Trustees request that USDOE conduct a detailed habitat and impact evaluation and begin making a determination of habitat values, cumulative impacts, and the ability to mitigate for these impacts. This effort, which should be done in conjunction with the Trustees in an advisory capacity, will support work being done on the sitewide Biological Resources Management Plan and the Biological Resources Mitigation Plan.

The Trustees would like to work cooperatively with USDOE and prevent natural resource losses by avoiding or minimizing impacts through the planning process. We believe that performing a habitat and impact evaluation before further injury occurs will decrease natural resource losses. USDOE can then better carry out its responsibilities as a natural resource trustee and a land manager at Hanford.

The Trustees are available for consultation on this issue. We have several ideas on how to conduct surveys, map the area, assess impacts, verify mitigation, and protect against injury.

We would like to meet with you, Mr. Rich Holten, and Mr. Randy Small to discuss these issues at your next possible opportunity. We ask that you reply to Mr. Robert Holt as to your availability for such a meeting. Finally, please note that this correspondence represents the consensus opinion of the signing Trustees.

Sincerely,

— Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council

Ann Aldrich  
Border Area Manager  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Chris Drivdahl  
Assistant Director, Habitat Program  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Michael J. Farrow  
Director, Department of Natural Resources  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

David C. Frederick  
State Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Donna Pawauke  
Manager, Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Department  
Nez Perce Tribe

Russell Jim  
Program Manager, Environmental Restoration/Waste Management Program  
Yakama Indian Nation

Dru Butler  
Program Manager, Nuclear Waste Program  
Washington Department of Ecology

cc:

U.S. Department of Energy

Hazel O' Leary

Tom Grumbley

John Bascietto

Linda McClain

Rich Holten

Randy Small

Bob Holt

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Randall Smith

Doug Sherwood

Dennis Faulk

U.S. Department of Interior

Preston Sleeper

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association

Chris Mebane

Washington Department of Ecology

Dan Silver

Jeff Breckel

Hanford Advisory Board

Sue Gould

HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE  
SIGNATURE PAGE

Signature indicates concurrence with the following:

Subject: Accompanying letter  
Date: December 7, 1994  
To: Mr. John Wagoner  
From: The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council

Regarding:

- Habitat and impact evaluation within the 200 Area Plateau
- Avoidance of natural resource losses
- Consultation with NRTC on future activities



U.S. Bureau of Land Management

12/7/94

Date

9513332.1340

HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE  
SIGNATURE PAGE

Signature indicates concurrence with the following:

Subject: Accompanying letter  
Date: December 20, 1994  
To: Mr. John Wagoner  
From: The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council

Regarding:

- Habitat and impact evaluation within the Central Plateau
- Avoidance of natural resource losses
- Consultation with the Trustees on future activities

Chris Drisdell  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

December 19, 1994  
Date

9513332.1341

DEPARTMENT of  
NATURAL RESOURCES

Administration



CONFEDERATED TRIBES  
of the

*Umatilla Indian Reservation*

P.O. Box 638

PENDLETON, OREGON 97801

Area code 503 Phone 276-3447 FAX 276-3317

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To: Mr. John Wagoner  
From: The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council

Regarding:

- Habitat and impact evaluation within the Central Plateau
- Avoidance of natural resource losses
- Consultation with the Trustees on future activities

*James R. Wilkerson Sr.*

Michael J. Farrow, Director

Department of Natural Resources

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

*12/14/94*

Date

HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE  
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Date: November ?, 1994  
To: Mr. John Wagoner  
From: The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council

Regarding:

- Habitat and impact evaluation within the 200 Area Plateau
- Avoidance of natural resource losses
- Consultation with NRTC on future activities

*for Nancy J. Gloman*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David C. Frederick  
State Supervisor  
Olympia WA  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

*12/8/94*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE  
SIGNATURE PAGE**

Signature indicates concurrence with the following:

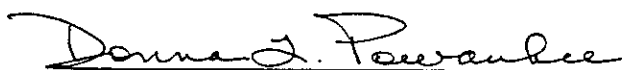
Subject: Accompanying letter

Date: August 29, 1994

To: Mr. John Wagoner

From: The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council

Regarding: -Habitat and impact evaluation within the 200 Area Plateau  
-Avoidance of natural resource losses  
-Consultation with NRTC on future activities



Donna L. Powauke  
ERWM Manager  
Nez Perce Tribe  
P.O. Box 365  
Lapwai, ID 83540

8/29/94

August 29, 1994



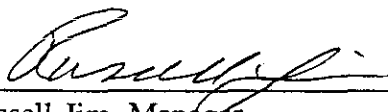
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From: The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council

Regarding:

- Habitat and impact evaluation within the 200 Area Plateau
- Avoidance of natural resource losses
- Consultation with NRTC on future activities

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell Jim, Manager  
ER/WM Program  
Yakama Nation

11-07-94

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE  
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From: The Natural Resource Trustee Council

Regarding:

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- Avoidance of natural resource losses
- Consultation with the Trustees on future activities

Dru Butler  
Dru Butler, Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology

12-19-94  
Date